

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 10, 2004

Subject: Request for removal of Rim Road rock wall, under construction, and already built between Kansas and Campbell Streets.

From: Mr. and Mrs. John A. Ferguson, Sr.

[REDACTED]

To: CITY COUNCIL Susan Austin  
District No. 1

Copy: MAYOR Joe Wardy

CITY ATTORNEY

CITY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Reasons for the request:

1) Unsafe:

*between Kansas and Campbell Streets*

*adjacent to Rim Road* The as-built 2 foot rock wall is continuous along one side of the 4 ½ foot wide concrete walk. On the other side of the walk is the street, thus making a confined passage for pedestrians going in opposite directions. This is sometimes causing someone to side-step into Rim Road traffic. Both motorists and pedestrians are at risk.

Dog walkers, when meeting each other going in opposite directions, have no space between wall and street for dogs to fan out sideways, on ground. Spilling out on the street is the hazard.

2) View obstructed:

When viewing the city, by standing on the opposite side of Rim Road, the portion of the low wall already built blocks out the lower half of the landscape, downtown. The view of the Hueco Mountains and eastern El Paso is completely gone, leaving only the invasive rock wall.

3) Unnecessary to build:

The new construction of the slope along the Rim is providing a flat buffer zone of 25 foot width between the walkway and the new slope down. To our knowledge, this width of buffer zone has been an adequate width for safety since Rim Road began, the walkway having been authorized during the Telles Administration.

The attraction of the Rim is the space provided for native plants to flourish, their beauty not detracted by a length of rock wall, which is a blockage for people, including many tourists, to stop and walk among the plants and enjoy the view of the city. Neither pedestrians or motorists need a barrier rock wall to deter pleasure or cause hazard along the Rim.

4) Personal deterrents:

Being family property owners with the same lot on Rim Road since April 1920, we no longer enjoy the amenities we pay for, with the highest tax rate in El Paso:

A. We hesitate to use the Rim Road walkway, because it is potentially unsafe. Walking for our health, and companionship of dog walking, are both hindered.

B. The view from our house is now limited. Real property value has been quoted to include "the view", for at least \$5000.00.

C. Taxes go on, while we pay for benefits lost.

D. We received no notice from the city regarding rock wall construction to be done along Rim Road in front of our house.